

Foreword

With the eighth issue of the *Catalan Historical Review*, this publication by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans is consolidating its place in the international dissemination of Catalan historiography with the satisfaction of having reaffirmed its classification in the first category of Carhus Plus, the index of Catalan journals in the sciences and humanities.

Tarraco was the major capital of the largest province in Roman Hispania, and Octavius Augustus endowed it with a territory that extended from most of the Mediterranean coastline to the Cantabrian and Galician coastline, along with half the central plateau. This imperial capital offers one of the most important Roman archaeology sites on the Iberian Peninsula and in the ancient Roman complex that dominated the Mediterranean and much of Europe for eight centuries. In this issue we offer an overview of the current state of research, with recent discoveries and a view of a large *urbs*, Tarragona, during a long, influential period.

Catalan Gothic painting, including frescoes, panels and miniatures, is one of the richest testimonies to mediæval art as it engaged in early contact with the Italianising models in the 14th century, and after the international Gothic in the Principality of Catalonia, the Kingdom of Valencia and the Kingdom of Mallorca. In this issue, we present a comprehensive, detailed view of the leading studios in the Catalan-speaking lands from 1300 until the early decades of the 15th century, before the currents that heralded the 15th century Renaissance had appeared.

Banditry, intertwined with the political struggles among factions in the 16th and 17th centuries, was a Mediterranean phenomenon that was not exclusive to Catalonia, a historical fact which has attracted the attention of historians and inspired literary works. This issue analyses the complexity and involvement of different social classes in a manifestation which subverted the prevailing order within the composite Spanish monarchy, which had to go to great pains to control it. The bandits in Catalonia were divided into *nyerros* and *cadells* prior to the 1640 uprising against the authoritarianism of the Hapsburg monarchs. This article attempts to ascertain the roots of this phenomenon.

Another article examines a crucial topic in contemporary civilisation: the Catalan-language press, which represents the popular expression of the revival of Catalan culture in its own language. In this issue, we survey the main titles and the evolution in journalism from 1868 until 1939. In the first third of the 20th century, and especially between the world wars, the mass media in Catalonia – just like everywhere – experienced a major transforma-

tion, which is analysed here. The Franco dictatorship liquidated the Catalan-language press, which had contributed to shaping a culture that was in harmony with the Europe of its day starting from the 19th century literary *Renaixença* and through period of greater freedom.

Women had contributed to manufacturing since before the Industrial Revolution, but with the advent of industrialisation they entered the factories and became the majority of the workforce, especially in the cotton fabric sector, without failing to mention the numerous women who worked in their precarious home workshops for contractors and eked out a living in even harsher conditions than their counterparts in the factories. This is the subject of the last article in the *Catalan Historical Review*, which surveys the abundant historiography which joins what has been written and is still being written in many countries. The topic of the greater submissiveness of female workers is contradicted by historical facts. The first laws to protect female workers as future mothers or troops were full of ambiguities and hovered between social progress and gender discrimination in Catalonia, just like everywhere.

Two conferences of historians captured much of the attention at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in 2014. First, this was the third centennial of Catalonia's defeat in 1714, and it came precisely in a year when the political relations between Catalonia and the Spanish State are undergoing profound scrutiny. It was also the first centennial of the establishment of the Mancomunitat in 1914 as the first step towards self-governance in the 20th century. While the first milestone represents the loss of the autonomous governing institutions by the force of Spanish-French Bourbon weapons, the second one marks the start of a political and cultural remedy, the prelude to its bumpy subsequent evolution until today. In this issue, we are offering reports on the international conference on "Catalonia and the Catalan-Speaking Lands before and after the Eleventh of September 1714" held in February 2014 at the IEC headquarters, and the symposium "The Mancomunitat de Catalunya, (1914), Centennial of the First Step towards Self-Governance", which was held in October 2014. Both were organised in Barcelona by the Historical-Archaeological Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

This issue also includes obituaries for Manuel Ardit, Joaquim Molas and Gregori M. Estrada, members of the History and Archaeology Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), and features biographical sketches of Antoni Furió, Damià Pons, and Flocel Sabaté, new full members of the History and Archaeology Section.

Finally, we would like to thank our readers who peruse either the electronic or printed version of our journal for their emails that come to us from faraway countries. Informing scholars from all over the world on the historiography of major topics in the history of the Catalan-speak-

ing lands is and will continue to be the main goal of this journal.

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Editor